

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An adjuster assembly for adjusting the release clearance between selectively engageable friction parts to compensate for wear in such parts, comprising a continuous tube and an expansion member together having a combined length controlling the release clearance of the selectively engageable friction parts, the expansion member having an expansion device frictionally engaging the interior of the continuous tube to effect progressive circumferential expansion of the continuous tube when the expansion device is axially drawn through the continuous tube to compensate for wear of the friction parts during actuation and release of said selectively engageable parts, and the continuous tube having an end portion processed differently from the balance of the continuous tube for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube that is expanded by the expansion device to compensate for wear of the friction parts.

2. (currently amended) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the end portion of the continuous tube is shaped to provide over a portion thereof a load resistance essentially equal the load resistance of a cylindrical portion of the continuous tube adjacent the flared shaped end portion.

3. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the end portion is radially inwardly flared for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube.

4. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the continuous tube is a solid continuous tube.

5. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the solid continuous tube is cylindrical and the end portion is uniformly radially inwardly flared.

6. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the end portion is radially inwardly flared for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube.

7. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 6, wherein the continuous tube is a solid continuous tube.

8. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 7, wherein the solid continuous tube is cylindrical and the end portion is uniformly radially inwardly flared.

9. (original) A brake system comprising a plurality of friction discs located between a pressure plate and a reaction plate, an actuating mechanism operative for moving the pressure plate toward the friction discs and the reaction plate, and an adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 1 for compensating for wear of the friction discs.

10. (currently amended) A brake piston adjuster mechanism comprising a deformable tube connected with a piston, a deforming member received with the deformable tube and engaging the deformable tube, wherein the deforming member includes an expander member mounted to an adjuster pin, wherein the deformable tube has a major tube diameter over a major operative portion thereof, and a first end and a second end, wherein during operation over time, the expander member moves from the first end to the second end of the deformable tube, and wherein the second end is provided with an inward swage, such that the second end has tapers to and terminates at a diameter which is smaller than the major tube diameter.

11. (currently amended) A method of increasing the useable life of an adjuster tube in an adjuster assembly that adjusts the release clearance between selectively engageable friction parts to compensate for wear in such parts, the adjuster assembly including a continuous tube and an expansion member together having a combined length controlling the release clearance of the selectively engageable friction parts, and the expansion member having an expansion device frictionally engaging the interior of the continuous tube to effect progressive circumferential expansion of the continuous

tube when the expansion device is axially drawn through the continuous tube to compensate for wear of the friction parts during actuation and release of said selectively engageable parts, the method comprising the step of processing an end portion of the continuous tube differently from the balance of the continuous tube for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube that is expanded by the expansion device to compensate for wear of the friction parts.

12. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 11, wherein the end portion of the continuous tube is shaped to provide over a portion thereof a load resistance essentially equal the load resistance of a cylindrical portion of the continuous tube adjacent the flared shaped end portion.

13. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 12, wherein the end portion is radially inwardly flared for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube.

14. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 13, wherein the continuous tube is a solid continuous tube.

15. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 14, wherein the solid continuous tube is cylindrical and the end portion is uniformly radially inwardly flared.

16. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 11, wherein the end portion is radially inwardly flared for extending the usable portion of the continuous tube.

17. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the continuous tube is a solid continuous tube.

18. (original) An adjuster assembly as set forth in claim 17, wherein the solid continuous tube is cylindrical and the end portion is uniformly radially inwardly flared.